

regents. When the regents voted against closing of Springfield, in 1980, he replaced them, he replaced them, and he eventually closed Springfield." So it goes on to say, "Allowing the governor to run the universities of any state is undemocratic and it is dangerous." I am sure that Governor Kerrey wouldn't be that nearsighted. But Bob Kerrey isn't always going to be our governor. We're going to have different governors in the state, and they are going to operate in different ways. I passed out an article, yesterday I think it was, on what the South Dakota State University students are doing in regard to the appointment of regents. They've started a petition drive to require that regents be elected. They say appointed regents are not to the best interest of South Dakotans. Also I passed out an Associated Press story that says that the Democrats criticized Governor Branstad for not reappointing three regents in the State of Iowa. I wish you would take a few minutes to read that article. We don't have that problem in Nebraska because we elect our regents. I think that is the way it should be. Arizona used to elect their regents. Then they went to appointing their regents. Now I understand they are unhappy with that, and a bill has been introduced to elect the regents again. The reason is that appointed regents are not what the people in Arizona want. I just wanted to call your fact to these three states. Some of you may say that elected regents is cumbersome. But I feel that it is democratic and gives the people a voice in higher education. The system we have here in Nebraska is a good one. It has worked for a long time. It doesn't need to be altered. Like the saying goes, if it's working why fix it. Giving the governor the power to appoint the regents takes this power away from the people and gives it to one who can use it for his or her own gain and even profit, like it has done in the State of South Dakota.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HEFNER: I don't believe that we should allow more power to be concentrated in Lincoln. We need to keep electing our regents by districts. The way we have it now, these elected regents really, really do work for their job. They are dedicated, hardworking persons. Some of them campaign harder than you or I did when we were campaigning for our office. In some instance they campaign harder than some of our congressional candidates. Four years ago the Legislature reappointed or reapportioned the regents